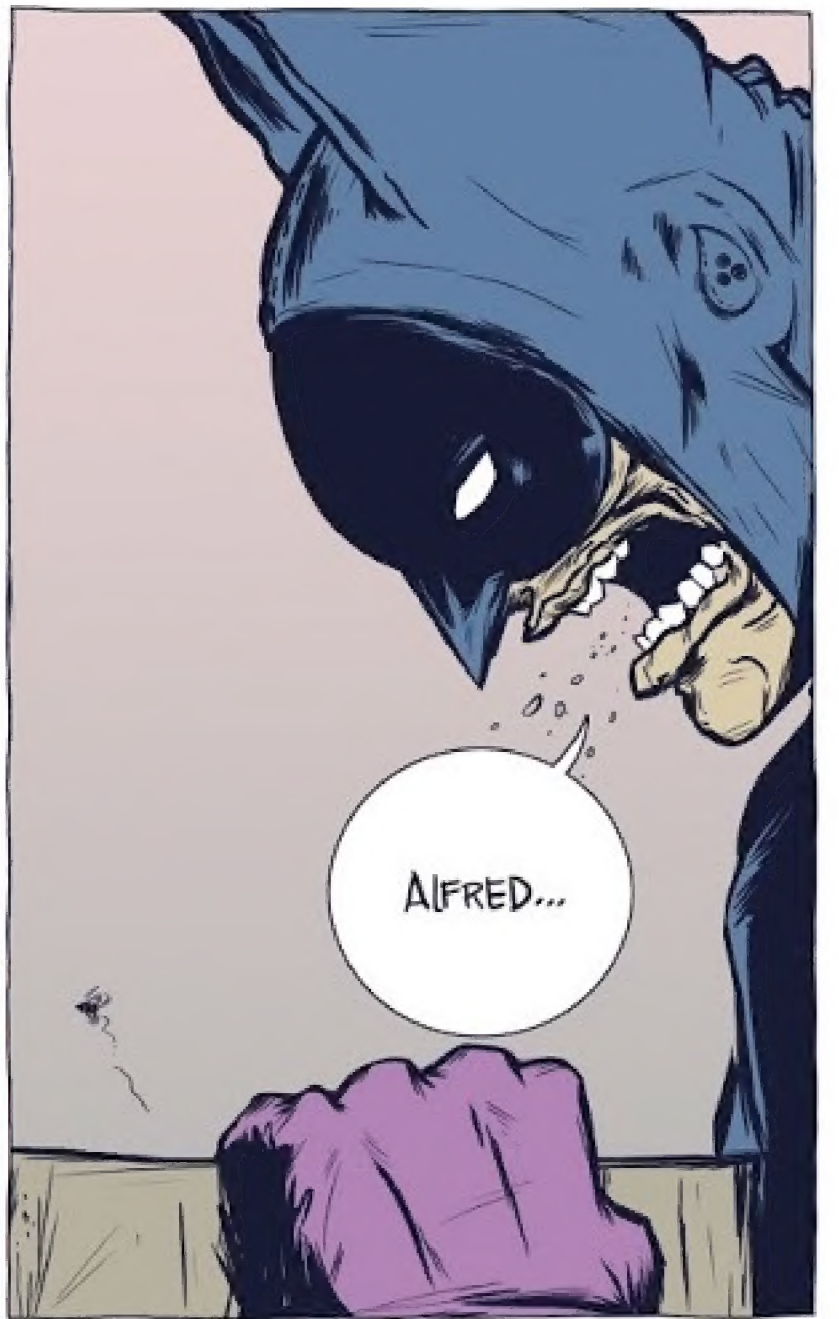


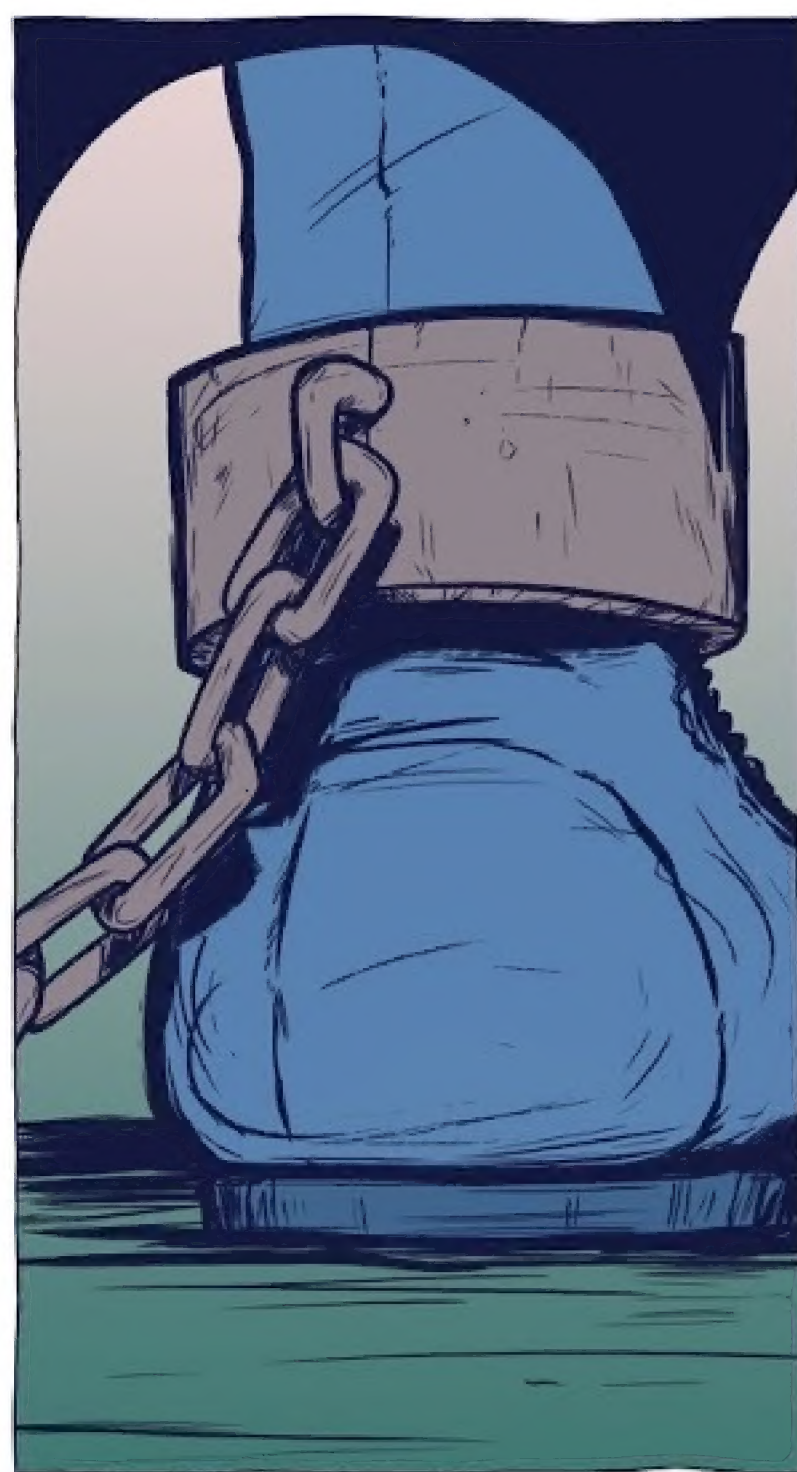
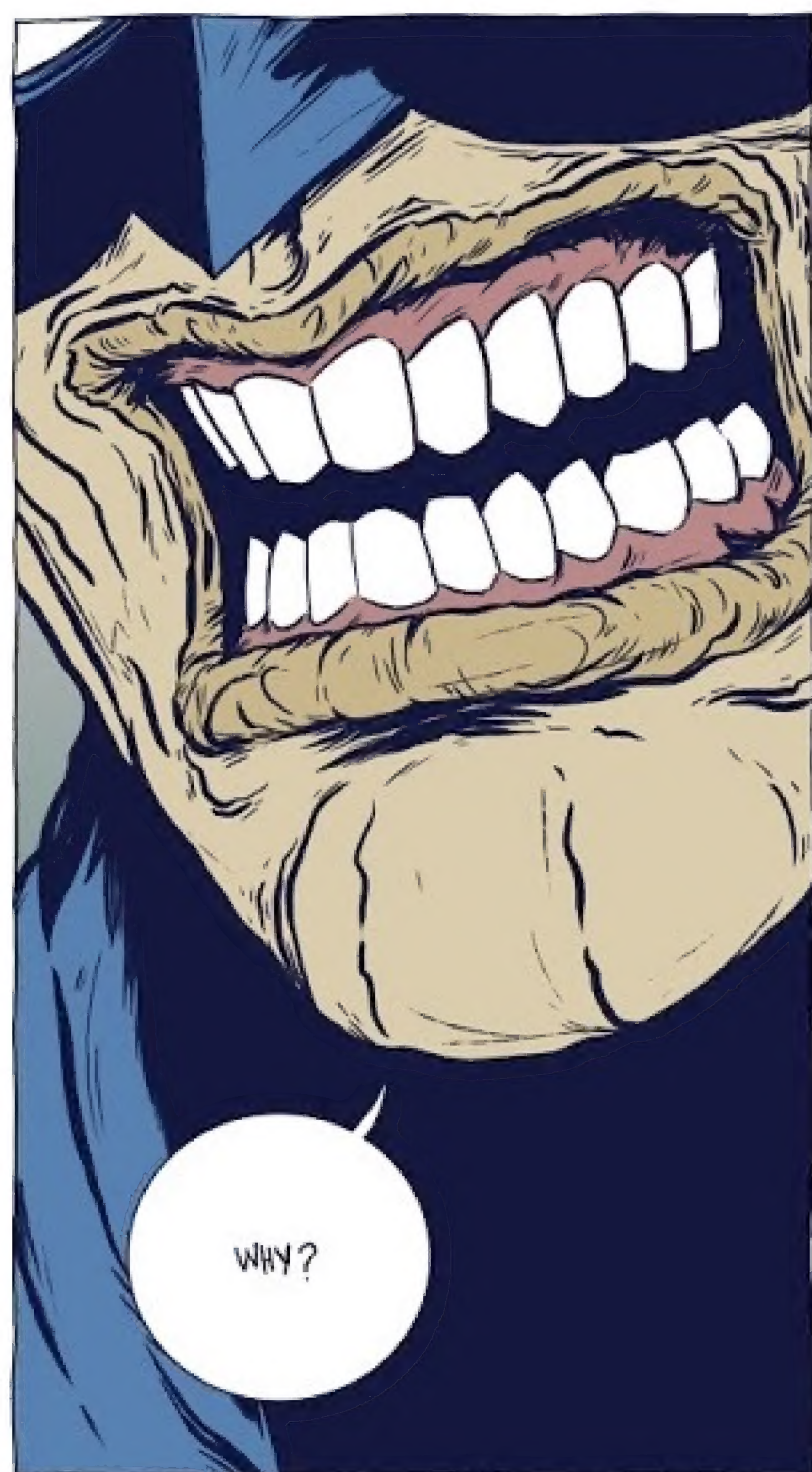
THE

written by Gerardo Preciado
drawn by Daniel Bayliss





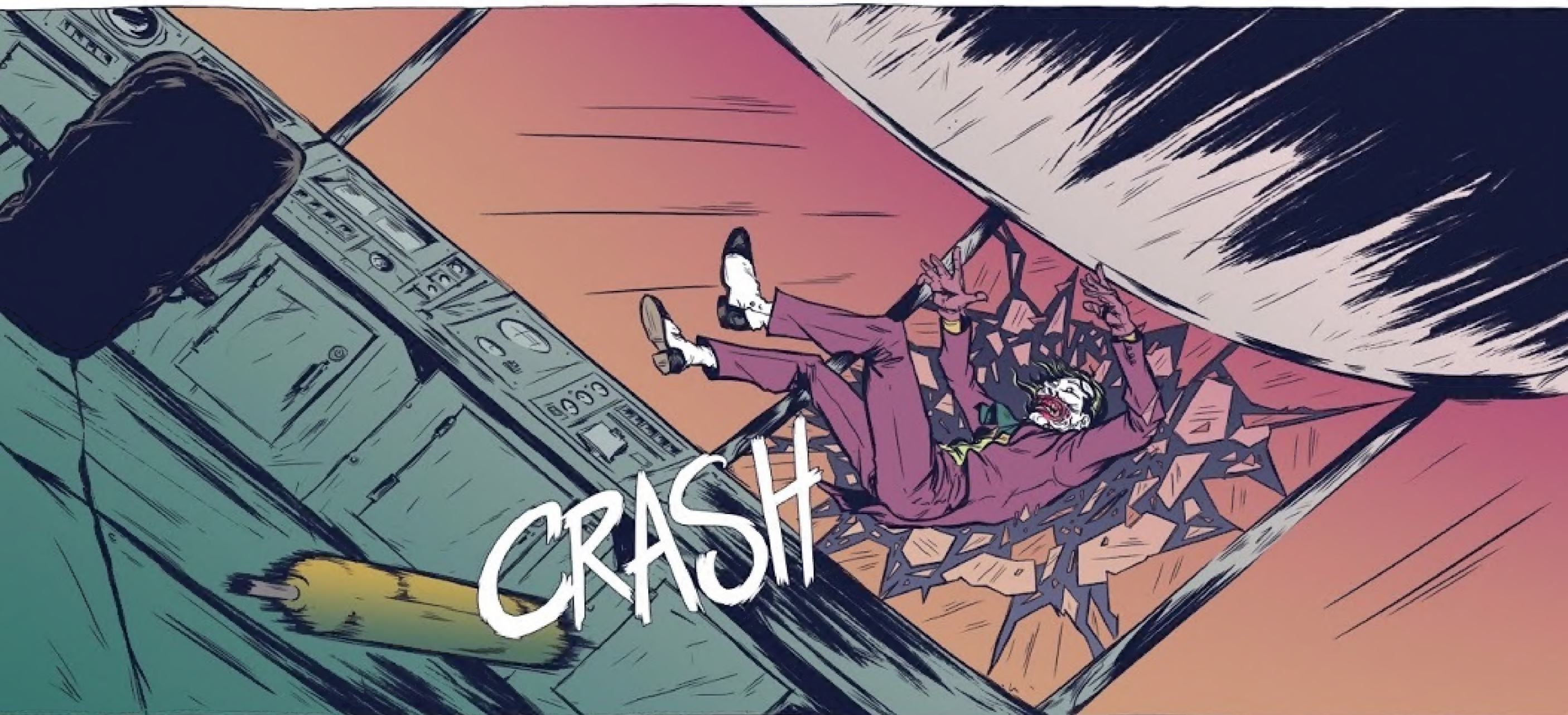










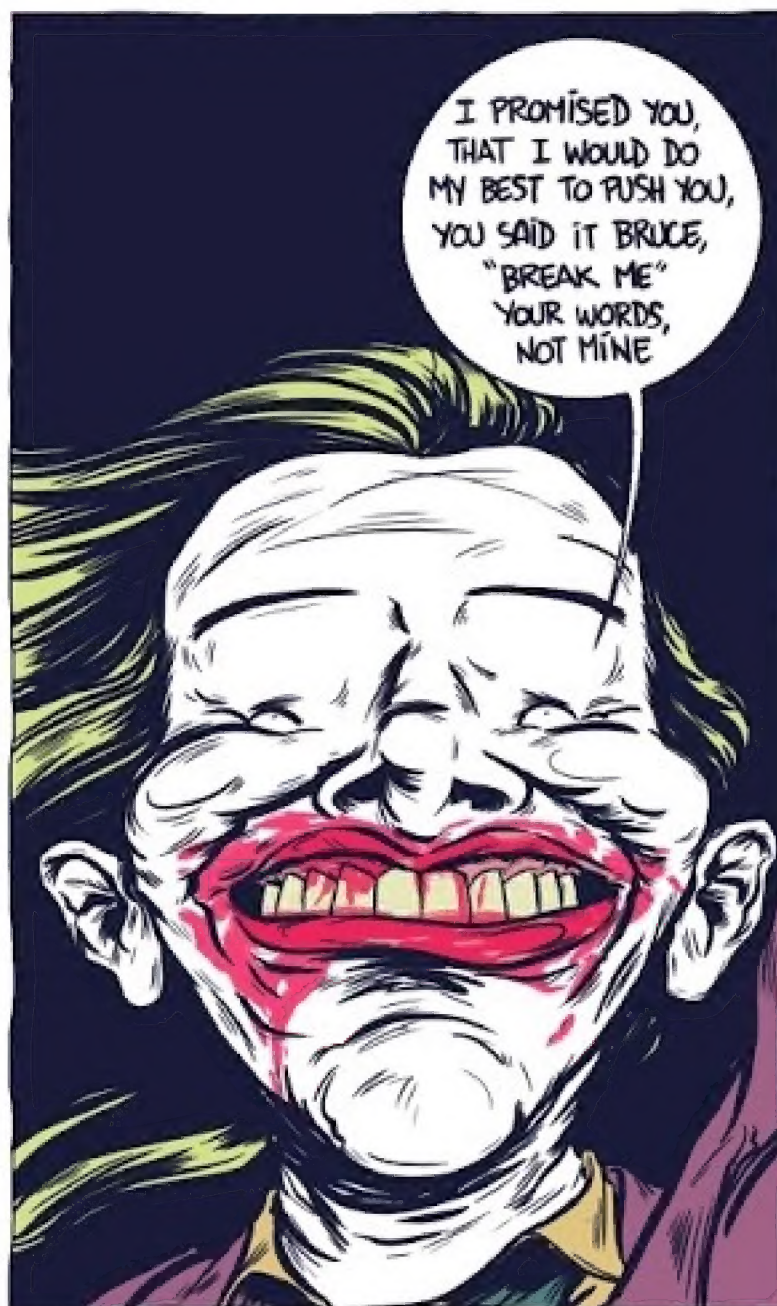





YOU KEEP
HOLDING ON
BRUCE.

THIS
ENDS
NOW.

YESSS!!!





I'M NOT CRAZY
I'M JUST
...AWAKEN.

YOU REALLY
DON'T REMEMBER BRUCE?
BEING ONE?
LOVING ME?
I THINK I WAS YOUR
WIFE ONCE, BRUCE.
WE'RE SOULMATES.

I'VE BEEN THE GOOD GUY,
YOU'VE BEEN THE BAD GUY,
THIS IS HOW WE LEARN.

YOU LOVE ME AND I LOVE YOU,
AND NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO
IN THIS LIFE THAT IS
NEVER GOING TO CHANGE.

I LOVE YOU.

YOU'VE BEEN
CLOSE TO DYING,
YOU'VE BEEN DEAD,
YOU HAVE FELT IT BRUCE.
WELL, HERE WE ARE
CLOSE TO DYING AGAIN,
DO YOU FEEL IT?

I KNOW YOU DO;
I CAN SEE IT
IN YOUR EYES.

DO IT BRUCE.
I'M TIRED.
I WANT TO
BE LIGHT AGAIN.
GET RID OF
THIS BODY.

I MISS
BEING NAKED.
BEING ME.
BEING YOU.

LET GO BRUCE.

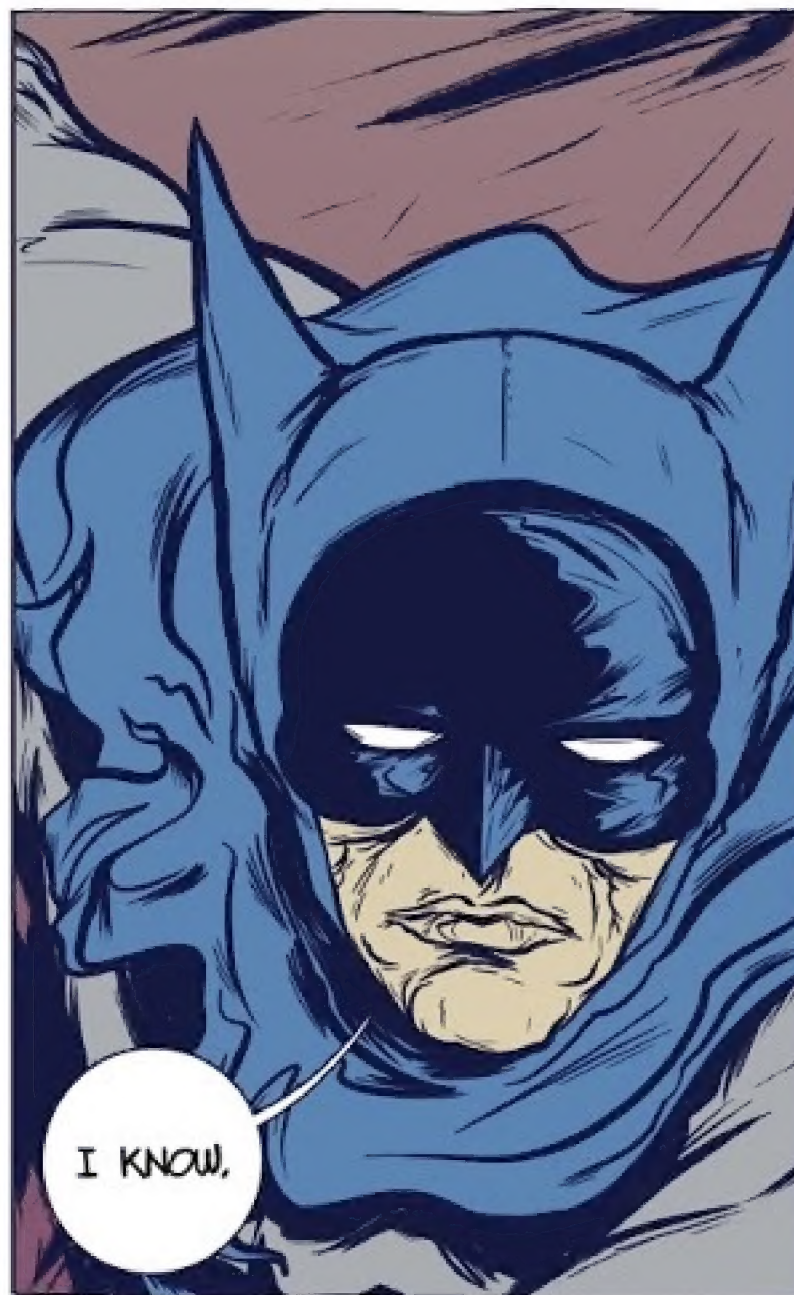
IT'S ALL
A JOKE.

YOUR PARENTS.

ME.
YOU.

FEAR.

IT'S AN ILLUSION.



I KNOW.



"THE WORLD IS LIKE A RIDE AT AN AMUSEMENT PARK,
AND WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO GO IN IT, YOU THINK IT'S REAL,
BECAUSE THAT'S HOW POWERFUL OUR MINDS ARE

AND THE RIDE GOES UP AND DOWN AND ROUND AND ROUND
AND IT HAS THRILLS AND CHILLS AND IT'S VERY BRIGHTLY COLORED
AND IT'S VERY LOUD. AND IT'S FUN, FOR A WHILE.

SOME PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ON THE RIDE FOR A LONG TIME,
AND THEY BEGIN TO QUESTION: 'IS THIS REAL? OR IS THIS JUST A RIDE?'
AND OTHER PEOPLE HAVE REMEMBERED,

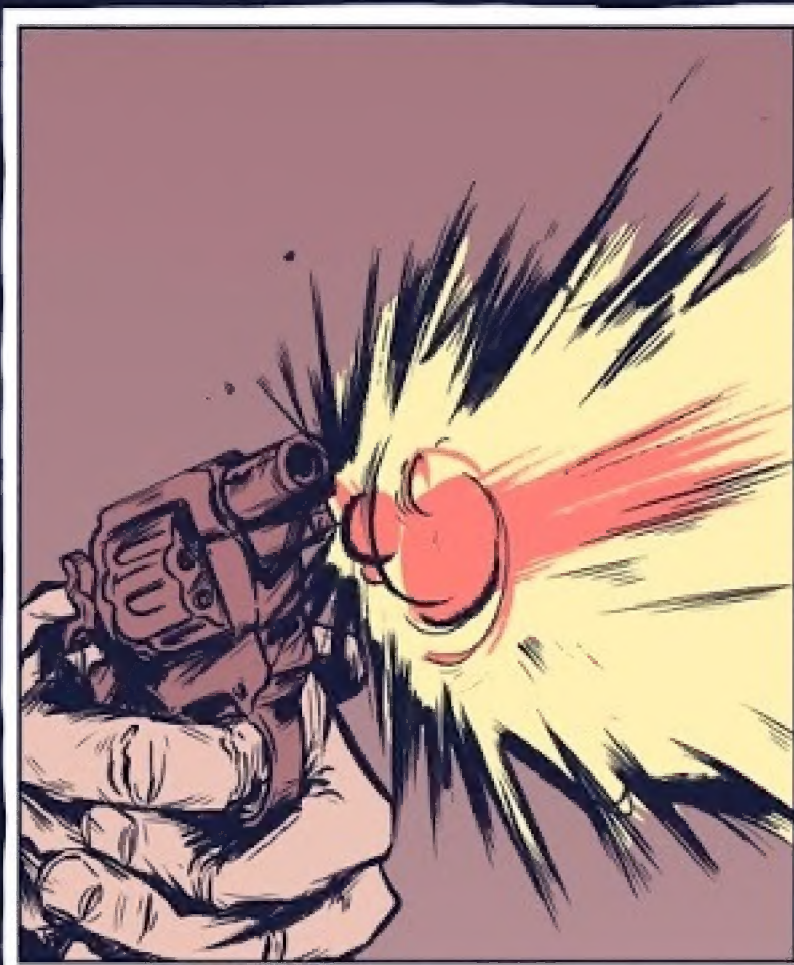
AND THEY COME BACK TO US AND THEY SAY 'HEY! DON'T WORRY,
DON'T BE AFRAID --EVER-- BECAUSE... THIS IS JUST A RIDE.'
AND WE KILL THOSE PEOPLE."

'SHUT HIM UP! WE HAVE A
LOT INVESTED IN THIS RIDE!
SHUT HIM UP!

LOOK AT MY FURROWS OF WORRY;
LOOK AT MY BIG BANK ACCOUNT,
AND MY FAMILY. THIS HAS TO BE REAL.

IT'S JUST A RIDE. BUT WE ALWAYS
KILL THOSE GOOD GUYS WHO TRY AND
TELL US THAT --EVER NOTICED THAT?--
AND WE LET THE DEMONS RUN AMOK."

BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER, BECAUSE...

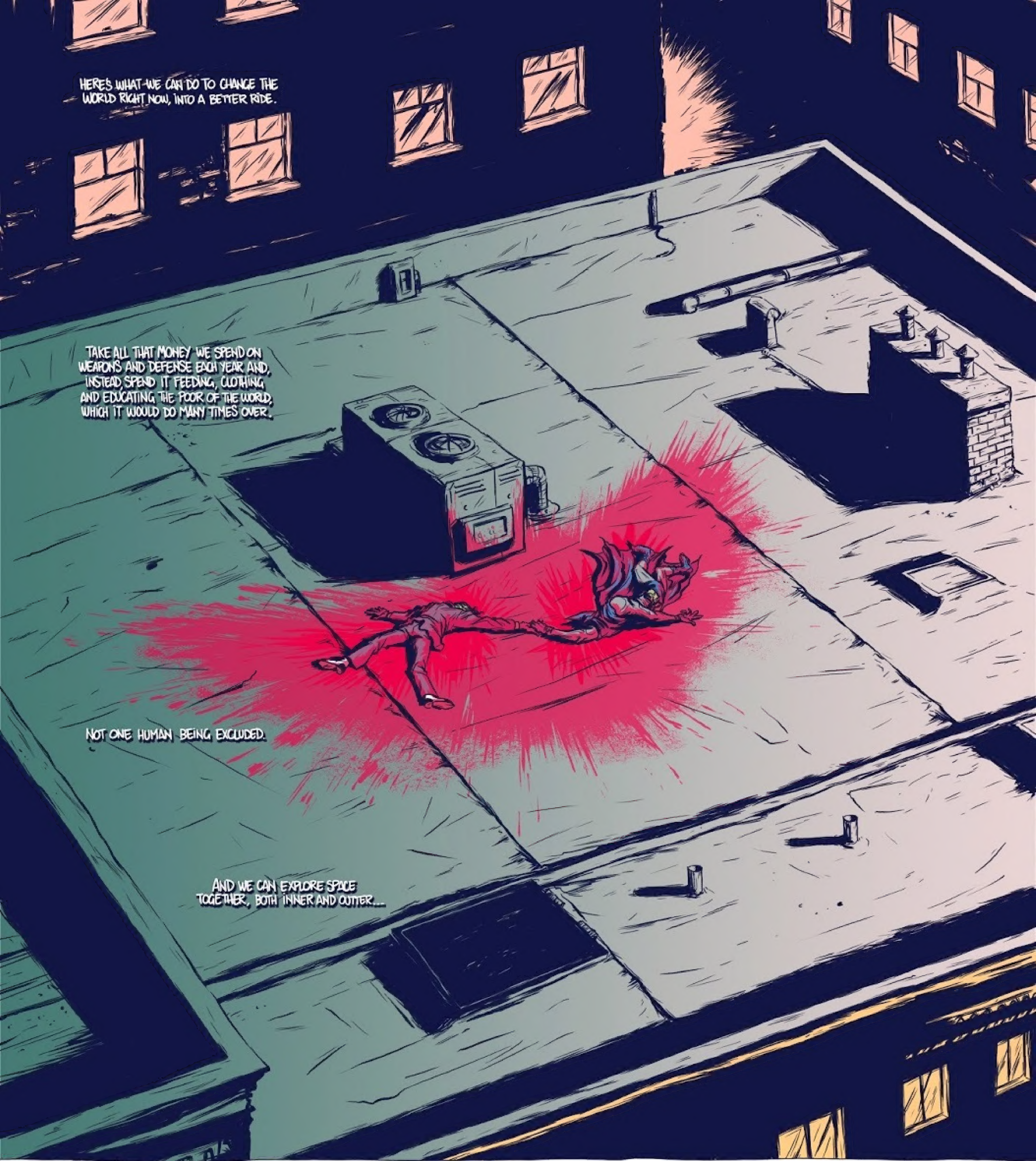


IT'S JUST A RIDE, AND WE CAN CHANGE
IT ANY TIME WE WANT.

IT'S ONLY A CHOICE, NO EFFORT.
NO WORRY, NO JOB, NO SAVINGS AND MONEY.
JUST A CHOICE, RIGHT NOW, BETWEEN FEAR AND LOVE.

THE EYES OF FEAR WANT YOU TO PUT
BIGGER LOCKS ON YOUR DOOR, BUY GUNS,
CLOSE YOURSELF OFF. THE EYES OF LOVE,
INSTEAD, SEE ALL OF US AS ONE.





HERE'S WHAT WE CAN DO TO CHANGE THE
WORLD RIGHT NOW, INTO A BETTER RIDE.

TAKE ALL THAT MONEY WE SPEND ON
WEAPONS AND DEFENSE EACH YEAR AND,
INSTEAD SPEND IT FEEDING, CLOTHING
AND EDUCATING THE POOR OF THE WORLD,
WHICH IT WOULD DO MANY TIMES OVER.

NOT ONE HUMAN BEING EXCLUDED.

AND WE CAN EXPLORE SPACE
TOGETHER, BOTH INNER AND OUTER....



...FOREVER.*

-BILL HICKS